

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09756 250959Z

12

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3537

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT JA

SUBJ: EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF DIET CONVENED JULY 24

1. 73RD EXTRAORDINARY SESSION OF DIET CONVENED JULY 24 TO PERMIT ORGANIZATION OF NEWLY ELECTED UPPER HOUSE. SESSION RECESSED IMMEDIATELY, HOWEVER, TO SEEK RESOLUTION OF SHARP CONFRONTATION BETWEEN GOJ/JDP AND OPPOSITION PARTIES OVER DURATION AND PURPOSE OF SESSION, AND ADAMANT REFUSAL BY PRIMIN TANAKA TO DELIVER POLICY SPEECH, WHICH CUSTOMARY IN POST-ELECTION SESSIONS IN UPPER HOUSE. UPPER HOUSE ORGANIZATION HAS BEEN DEFERRED UNTIL JULY 27.

FORMAL OPENING CEREMONY IS SCHEDULED FOR MONDAY, JULY 29.

2. LDP PROPOSED WEEK-LONG NON-SUBSTANTIVE SESSION, WITHOUT OPENING DAY POLICY SPEECH BY PRIMIN, BUT OPPOSITION PARTIES DEMANDED LONGER SESSION, POLICY SPEECH AND BUDGET COMMITTEE DELIBERATION ON PRICES IN BOTH HOUSES.

3. LOWER HOUSE STEERING COMMITTEE MET ALL DAY JULY 24 TO DECIDE ON DURATION OF SESSION. EVENING VOTE ON EIGHT-DAY SESSION, HOWEVER, WAS THROWN INTO CONFUSION WHEN CHAIRMAN

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HIDEYO SASAKI (LDP-OHIRA FACTION) FAILED TO NOTICE UNEXPECTED

ABSTENTION BY LDP MEMBERS YOSHIRO MORI (FUKUDA FACTION) AND TAKEO NISHIOKA (MIKI FACTION) AND MISTAKENLY DECLARED MOTION ADOPTED BY LDP MAJORITY, 12 - 10. AFTER THREE-HOUR PROTEST BY OPPOSITION, SPEAKER SHIGESABURO MAEO BROUGHT MOTION TO VOTE IN LOWER HOUSE PLENARY SESSION, WHERE LDP MAJORITY VOTED APPROVAL OF EIGHT-DAY SESSION JUST BEFORE MIDNIGHT.

4. MORI AND NISHIOKA ALSO WALKED OUT OF LOWER HOUSE CHAMBER BEFORE PLENARY SESSION VOT. EACH TOLD PRESS HIS ACTION BASED ON STRONG PERSONAL DISAPPROVAL OF PRIMIN TANAKA REFUSAL TO DELIVER CUSTOMARY POLICY ADDRESS. MOST OBSERVERS DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY THAT THEY ACTED IN CONCERT AS PART OF ANTI-TANAKA MOVE DECIDED BY MIKI AND FUKUDA, BUT GENERALLY AGREE THAT THEIR ACTION WOULD HAVE INEVITABLE EFFECT OF CRYSTALIZING INTRAPARTY CONFRONTATION BETWEEN TANAKA AND MIKI-FUKUDA ALLIANCE.

5. COMMENT: FIRST DAY OF CURRENT DIET SESSION PROVIDED ADDITIONAL ILLUMINATION OF DIFFICULTIES FACING PRIMIN TANAKA IN DEALING WITH DISSIDENTS IN OWN PARTY, AS WELL AS OPPOSITION PARTIES EMBOLDENED BY UPPER HOUSE ELECTION GAINS. HOWEVER, NOW THAT DIET HAS DECIDED TO KEEP SESSION BRIEF, PRIMIN SHOULD BE ABLE TO ACHIEVE HIS APPARENT GOAL OF AVOIDING SUBSTANTIVE DEBATE IN THIS SESSION IN HOPE OF BUYING TIME TO MEND POLITICAL FENCES DURING LONG SUMMER ADJOURNMENT WHICH FOLLOWS. END COMMENT.
HODGSON

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